



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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For Immediate Release:
May 13, 2004

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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Alligator Bayou Canoe Trip scheduled

BATON ROUGE -- The fifth annual Alligator Bayou Canoe Trip for children attending the McMains Children's Developmental Center will be Saturday, May 15. The event pairs children from the McMains Center, along with their families, with volunteers from DEQ and BASF for a scenic trip down Alligator Bayou.

Alligator Bayou is located near historic Bayou Manchac, along the border of Ascension and Iberville Parishes, at 35019 Alligator Bayou Road in Prairieville. During the trip, children and their families have a chance to see some of south Louisiana's unusual swamp life, while enjoying a relaxing canoe ride. Following the ride, families and volunteers are invited to join together on the grounds of Alligator Bayou Tours for a jambalaya lunch provided by BASF. This will be the fourth year Wright and Percy Insurance provides coverage for the event.

The McMains Children's Developmental Center, located on College Drive in Baton Rouge, treats children with a variety of developmental disabilities ranging from cerebral palsy to learning and speech difficulties. This outing provides the children and their families with an outdoor adventure many of them may have thought impossible. Therapists from the McMains Center assist those children needing extra help in the canoes. The therapists also participate with family members and volunteers to provide paddle power as the children cruise down the bayou. Activities on shore include face painting and water sponge catapults.

Although DEQ and Alligator Bayou Tours have been involved with the trip from its inception, BASF and Wright and Percy Insurance joined to provide valuable volunteer and financial assistance, which allowed the trip to grow into what it is today. Capital Area United Way uses its annual Day of Caring to pair area companies and organizations with United Way member agencies such as the McMains Center to provide volunteer and financial assistance in a variety of creative ways.

For more information on the canoe trip, contact Albert Hindrichs at DEQ. He can be reached at (225) 219-3584, or by E-mail at al.hindrichs@la.gov.